It is my great pleasure, Mr. Chancellor, to present Doris Shadbolt whose life's work has helped shape our perceptions of art, compelling us to feel anew its power to nourish the human spirit. Curator and art historian, educator and philanthropist, this distinguished Canadian has spent her life enriching ours.

Born in Ontario she attended the University of Toronto, earning her Honours B.A. in Fine Art. In 1950, she joined the Vancouver Art Gallery and for twenty-five years dedicated herself to its welfare. As Director of Education, then Curator, Senior Curator and Associate Director, Doris Shadbolt played an influential role in its development as a major gallery and meeting place for avant-garde artists, musicians, and writers of the sixties and early seventies.

From 1963 until 1975, in a sustained act of imaginative curating, she took the Vancouver Art Gallery and the public on a remarkable voyage of discovery, its many milestones a tribute to her daring, integrity, and clarity of vision. Doris Shadbolt's lifelong interest in Canadian art, and Northwest Coast art in particular, resulted in several groundbreaking exhibitions, including the Arts of the Raven, the first major exhibition of Native art in an aesthetic rather than anthropological context. Many more triumphs quickly followed, among them the Centennial Exhibition of Emily Carr and The Art of Bill Reid. Always alert to the new, she curated several important exhibitions of modern art, including the New York 13 and the Los Angeles 6.

The acuity and originality that set her apart as a curator distinguish Doris Shadbolt as a writer. Author of numerous articles and essays, she attained status as a major writer with her books The Art of Emily Carr and Bill Reid. George Woodcock described the former as a monumental achievement in writing and understanding. For the latter, she received two of the B.C. Annual Book Awards in 1987.

An Officer of the Order of Canada, she has served on many of the most important committees and boards in the British Columbian and Canadian art worlds. And though retired, she continues to guest curate, to encourage, and to advise. In 1988, together with her husband Jack, she founded the Vancouver Institute for the Visual Arts, a foundation whose sole purpose is to help deserving artists.

The dedication in her book the Art of Emily Carr reads "For Jack, who helped me see." We might say the same of Doris Shadbolt whose selfless devotion to art has taught a generation to see. Mr. Chancellor, it is an honour to present Doris Shadbolt for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.